

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-09 ACDA-12
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /174 W
-----119452 280820Z /10

P 280125Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8032

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SUVA 1924

SAIPAN PASS STATUS LNO

E.(O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, EFIS, XP, FJ

SUBJECT: FIJI PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS OF SPRFO, SOUTH PACIFIC
FORUM MEETING IN NIUE

1. FIJI PRIME MINISTER RATU MARA ON 27 SEPT BRIEFED PRESS ON
FIJI PARTICIPATION RECENT SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING IN NIUE,
PARTICULARLY FIJI ATTITUDES TOWARDS SPRFO. RATU MARA SAID
FIJI OPPOSES U.S. PARTICIPATION IN SPRFO BECAUSE U.S. DOMESTIC
LEGISLATION PROHIBITS RECOGNITION OF COASTAL STATES' CLAIMS
TO ECONOMIC RESOURCES IN THEIR 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONES. IF
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U.S. WERE TO RESCIND THIS LEGISLATION, FORUM MIGHT RECONSIDER

U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN SPRFO, BUT IF U.S. WERE ALLOWED MEMBERSHIP,
WITHOUT CHANGING LEGISLATION "THEN I WILL WITHDRAW FIJI FROM

THE FORUM"

2. RATU MARA THEN REFERRED TO THE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO SPEC LAST MAY FROM WHICH HE QUOTED PART SAYING "U.S. IS NOT PREPARED TO SIGN TREATY WHICH REQUIRES RECOGNITION OF COASTAL STATES JURISDICTION OVER TUNA." THIS WAS POINT WHICH MARA SAID "STUCK IN MY THROAT" AS FIJI DESIRED ORGANIZATION IN WHICH MEMBERSHIP AGREED ON COMMON CONSERVATION MEASURES INCLUDING REGULATION OF TUNA FISHING. U.S. TUNA FISHERMEN SHOULD BE BOUND BY THE ORGANIZATION'S REGULATIONS; U.S. FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT SHOULD NOT APPLY IF VESSELS WERE SEIZED

FOR VIOLATING THAT ORGANIZATION'S REGULATIONS.

3. ASKED IF FORUM WOULD BREAK UP OVER FISHERIES ISSUE, MARA SAID ALLOWING ENTRY OF U. S. WOULD GO BACK TO SPC SYSTEM WHERE DECISIONS HAD TO BE REFERRED TO HOME GOVTS, AS U.S., U.K. AND FRENCH HEADS OF GOVT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND FORUM MEETINGS. SAID MARA, "THE WHOLE CONCEPT AND PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA OF THE FORUM WAS EXPOSED RUING THIS DEBATE AND I THINK THE OVER-RIDING PRINCIPLE WAS THAT THE FORUM IS FOR LEADERS WHO COULD MAKE DECISIONS ON BEHALF OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS". (EMBASSY COMMENT: THE PM OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT ON THIS. HE IS CONFUSING SPRFO WITH FORUM AND HIS ANALOGY TO SPC IS JUST AS CONFUSING.)

4. RATU MARA CRITICIZED ROLES PLAYED BY AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN FORUM DELIBERATIONS SAYING THAT THEY HAD INTRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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DUCED "LOBBYING" TACTICS. HE SAID THAT IN PAST, PRIME

MINISTERS OF ISLAND STATE MEMBERS OF FORUM HAD ALWAYS HELD

EXCLUSIVE MEETING BEFORE FORUM DELIBERATIONS AND DECIDED BY CONSENSUS FORUM ATTITUDES. WHEN TUPUOLA EFI CAME TO REPRESENT WESTERN SAMOA TWO YEARS AGO, HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTED THAT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BE INCLUDED IN THESE PRE-FORUM

DELIBERATIONS. BY COMPLYING, FORUM HAD ALLOWED THESE TWO COUNTRIES TO INTRODUCE THEIR CONTENTIOUS METHODS INTO FORUM MEETINGS. "I THINK THE CHICKEN HAS COME HOME TO ROOST WHEN

HE HAS HAD TO GO AND LOBBY EVERYONE OF US INSTEAD OF HAVING THE GROUP DISCUSS HIS POINTS." RATU MARA WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND FOR BACKING U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN

SPRFO, A POSITION WHICH WAS AN ABOUT-FACE FROM THEIR STAND AGAINST ALLOWING CONTINENTAL AIRLINES TO FLZ THE SOUTH PACIFIC. HE SAID THIS POSITION WAS MADE KNOWN TO HIM IN RESPONSE TO LETTERS HE HAD SENT TO NZ AND AUST PM'S URGING A LIBERAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS CONTINENTAL. (EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS POINT

IS AMONG THE MANZ THAT INFURIATED NZ HIGH COMMISSIONER IN
SUVA WHO TOLD THE AMB THAT MARA DISTORTED NZ POSITION WHICH
WAS STATED IN A LETTER FROM MULDOON HANDED TO MARA ONLY DAYS
BEFORE NIUE IN WHICH NZ TOOK A POSITIVE POSITION EXPLAINING
THAT NZ WOULD WELCOME CONTINENTAL FLYING TO AUCKLAND AND
ONLY THE FREQUENCY MAY BE SOMETHING TO BE NEGOTIATED.)

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FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8033

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SUVA 1924

5. MARA SAID IT WAS A MYSTERY TO HIM WHY AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND WERE SO ANXIOUS TO HAVE US. INCLUDED AS THEY HAD
LITTLE TUNA IN THEIR WATERS. WESTERN SAMOA HAD CONTRACTS
WITH TWO AMERICAN COMPANIES TO FISH THEIR WATERS AND HAD
SAID THEY WOULD NOT AGREE TO ORGANIZATION WHICH DID NOT
INCLUDE US.

6. MARA SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT FISHING AGREEMENT BE-
TWEEN THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WAS NOT WORKING
WELL FOR THOSE COUNTRIES AS THE U.S. TOOK THE LION'S SHARE
OF THE CATCH. ASKED WHETHER IT WAS PRACTICAL TO FORM AN
ORGANIZATION WITHOUT U.S. PARTICIPATION, MARA SAID FORUM
COUNTRIES WOULD NOT KNOW BUT WOULD SEE IF THEY COULD DO IT

ON THEIR OWN. NEWSMAN FOLLOWED UP WITH QUESTION ABOUT
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WHAT FIJI WOULD DO IF U.S. VESSELS FISHED IN HITS WATERS TO WHICH MARA REPLIED, "WELL, WE MAY TRY (TO ARREST THEM), BUT THEY MAY BE FASTER THAN OUR VESSELS. I MEAN THEY CAN DO WHATEVER...THEY BELIEVE IN THE PRINCIPLE THAT MIGHT IS RIGHT. WELL, LET THEM GO AHEAD." (MEMBASSY COMMENT: THIS PROBABLY REFERS TO SOMETHING JIOJI MENTIONED TO THE AMB RECENTLY. HE ALLEGED THAT IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN FISHERIES COUNCIL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON TOTAL CATCH OF FUNA IN THE AREA BUT DISAGREEMENT ABOUT EACH COUNTRY'S QUOTA WAS DEEP BECAUSE U.S. WAS CLAIMING AN UNREASONABLE SHARE. ACCORDING TO JIOJI, MEXICO AND NICARAGUA WERE THREATENING TO QUIT THE COUNCIL.

ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD THE DEPT GIVE US THE FACTS ON THIS TO EVENTUALLY ATTEMPT TO CORRECT JIOJI'S VERSION.)

7. PREDICTABTY OUR NZ AND AUSTRALIAN COLLEAGUES ARE REACTING SHARPLY TO MARA'S STATEMENTS OF WHICH WE PRBVIDED A FULL TRANSCRIPT. NZ PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT MULDOON'S REACTION ON EVE OF ELECTIONS DEPENDING ON PLAY GIVEN IN NZ PRESS AND TELEVISION. MILDOON IS STOPPING NADI SUNDAY 1 OCT ON HIS WAY BACK FROM U.S. AND PROCEEDING TO APIA FOR A DAY'S VIEIT WITH PM EFI. MARA WILL PROBABLY READ SINISTER PLOTS IN THIS MEETING.

8. TEXT OF NEWS CONFERENCE BEING POUCHED EA/PIA. EMBASSY COMMENTS WILL FOLLOW.
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Message Attributes

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